



## **DROXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

**6.00pm Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

**Wilfrid's Café, Droxford**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Mark Dennington, Chris Hawkesford, Colin Matthissen, Janet Melson (Chair) and Lewis Smith

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ailsa Duckworth – Parish Clerk/RFO  
County Cllr Hugh Lumby  
District Cllrs Danny Lee and Frank Pearson  
Mr Peter Richardson

**PUBLIC:** 2

**23.137 Apologies for absence**

Councillors: Matt Avison (Prior Commitment)

**23.138 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Melson declared an interest in agenda item 23.150a as it included a tree felling application at her residence.

**23.139 Requests for Dispensation:** None

**23.140 Co-option of councillors**

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that Peter Richardson would be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Melson      **SECONDED:** Councillor Dennington

**23.141 Assignment of Responsibilities:**

- a. Finance – Cllr Matthissen
- b. Planning – Cllrs Dennington & Avison
- c. Capital Projects – Cllrs Dennington, Avison & Matthissen
- d. Open Spaces – Cllr Richardson
- e. Roads, Transport & Highways – Cllr Smith
- f. Combatting Climate Change – Cllr Hawkesford
- g. Website and ICT – Cllr Hawkesford
- h. Footpaths and RoW – Cllrs Richardson & Melson

**23.142 Residents as members of working groups or to assist the Council:**

a. Droxford Cemetery Custodian – Mrs Di Shepherd

**23.143**      **Representatives to outside bodies:**

a. Droxford Cricket Club – Cllr Dennington

b. Droxford Allotments – Cllr Richardson

c. Wilfrid's Café – Cllr Melson

d. Droxford Village Hall – Cllr Melson

e. Parochial Church Council – Cllr Matthissen

**23.144 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Dennington

**SECONDED:** Councillor Smith

**23.145 Public Session:** A member of the public was in attendance to request support for planting a tree, to commemorate the coronation, on the HCC owned land at the Fire Station, Union Lane.

**23.146 Response to Public Participation:** The Chair thanked the member of public and supported the suggestion of the tree, as long as the correct approval is sought from the landowner. County Cllr Lumby highlighted the small grants available for such initiatives.

**23.147 Reports from County and District Councillors:** Apologies were received from District Cllr Malcolm Wallace. Written reports were received from District Cllrs Malcolm Wallace and Danny Lee, and County Cllr Hugh Lumby, and circulated prior to the meeting.

**23.148 Clerk's Report including updates on previous decisions: Noted.**

**23.149 Finance Reports:** Received and Noted

**a. NOTED:** Financial Status and bank balance

**b. APPROVED:** Payments as per approval list.

**c. APPROVED:** The new monthly fees for the website (Hugo Fox) were approved at the Silver level of support.

**d. APPROVED:** The insurance quote from AJ Gallagher's for a one year renewal at £984.60 was accepted.

**23.150 Planning Report:** Report Noted.

**a. NOTED:** New applications and decisions.

**b. NOTED:** The current open and closed enforcement cases were noted.

**c. DEFERRED:** The Parish Priority Statement is deferred whilst the flexibility on the closing date is explored.

**d. NOTED:** WCC has responded regarding the Japanese Knotweed growing outside of the Old Nurseries site. A meeting is to be scheduled at the location, but due to staff shortages this has not taken place yet. The **Clerk** is to escalate the issue to WCC again as their response is inadequate.

**e. NOTED:** The Management Company for The White Horse Inn was interested to discuss whether opening back up as a pub would be well received by the village. The Parish Council that such a move would be supported by residents.

- 23.151 Green Spaces Report:** Noted. Cllr Melson is to forward the Cricket Club agreement to Cllr Richardson. Volunteers are needed to help keep the Garden of Reflection clear of sycamore leaves.
- 23.152 Highways Report:** Noted. A landowners meeting is to be set up for November. Cllr Smith is liaising with WCC on the White Gates initiative and this will be discussed in depth at the next meeting.
- 23.153 Footpaths & RoW:** Noted. A number of paths are overgrown. The **Clerk** is to contact Andrew Wilkinson regarding the path down to Mill Lane. The path up to the motorcycle track also requires attention.
- 23.154 Sustainable Droxford:** The Waste Prevention grant from HCC was used to set up the Toy Swap, which was held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, where 210kg of unwanted toys were recycled, with only 1.5kg going to landfill. The aims of the event were to help people connect; increase recycling and to help people save money, which were all met successfully. A future event will be set for March 2024 using the remaining funding.
- 23.155 Correspondence received:**
- a. **NOTED:** Email re. hollyhocks on Park Lane from D Foster. Signs cannot be put up by the Parish Council as the walls/buildings are privately owned.
  - b. **APPROVED:** Grant requests. It was agreed to fund the organisations as per the agreed budget.
  - c. **APPROVED:** Email re. land next to the Fire Station. Agreed as per agenda item 23.146.
  - d. **NOTED:** Email re. request for updated cemetery fees. **Clerk** and **Chair** to review and make recommendations to Full Council re. any changes.
  - e. **NO OBJECTION:** FP 10 proposed diversion consultation from the Countryside Access Team.
  - f. **APPROVED:** HALC's Articles of Association with amendments from WDALC.
- 23.156 Agenda Items for next Full Council meeting**
- a. White gates consultation
  - b. External audit report
- 23.157 Date of the next meeting:** 6.00pm Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Droxford Village Hall